

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2007

CONTACT: Jerry McCoy/623-930-2964
Marketing/Communications Department

NEW BUSINESS, CIVIC ORGANIZATION WILL PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS, ECONOMIC VITALITY IN GLENDALE

GLENDALE, Ariz. – A new organization comprised of business and civic leaders is being launched in Glendale.

Incorporated as “GLENDALE FIRST,” the non-profit group’s mission is to identify and act upon opportunities to build and promote business and community partnerships to strengthen economic vitality and the quality of life in the city.

The establishment of GLENDALE FIRST is the result of efforts by Mayor Elaine Scruggs, City Manager Ed Beasley and representatives of the community.

“With the national spotlight on Glendale, the time is right for the leadership and resources GLENDALE FIRST members will provide and the positive relationships and collaborations they will develop,” said Scruggs.

The goals of GLENDALE FIRST are

- *Economic Opportunities* – leverage the talent and resources of its members to continue to improve economic opportunities with the goal of enhancing Glendale’s success in attracting additional jobs, investment and talent.
- *Advocacy* – serve as a strong advocate for the interest of its members by creating a climate of business growth and success.

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5850 W. Glendale Ave.
Glendale, AZ 85301
(623) 930-2960
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- *Focus* – help build a stronger community by staying focused and involved in the top business and civic priorities.
- *Connection and Recognition* – hold events, such as the upcoming Celebration of Champions Dinner, that offer unique venues for its members as well as recognition to Glendale and its citizens.

GLENDAL FIRST has wide representation among its founding members, from private and public businesses to faith-based organizations and educational institutions. Members live or work in Glendale or have a strong commitment to the community. The group will begin holding monthly meetings.

The newly elected officers are President Arlene Kulzer, president and chief executive officer of Arrowhead Community Bank; First Vice President Mark Schneider, CPA and partner of Clifton Gunderson LLP; Second Vice President Rufus Glasper, chancellor of Maricopa Community Colleges; Secretary Kathleen Goeppinger, president and CEO of Midwestern University; and Treasurer Brian T. Anderson, senior pastor of Vineyard Church of North Phoenix.

The executive committee is: James Barasha, vice president of Global Private Client Group-Merrill Lynch; Steve Ewing, president of Spring Air Mattress; Michael Jedlowski, president and CEO of Ashley Furniture HomeStore; Arthur Othon, community development director of Arizona Public Service; Carolyn Pendergast, president and CEO of Pendergast Marketing & Communications; and Bill Toops, publisher of The Glendale Star.

“It’s an important time for Glendale’s existing businesses to work together with other segments of the community to develop collaborations that will strengthen our local economy and improve the quality of life for our residents,” said Kulzer.

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The inaugural event that GLENDAL FIRST will be holding is the “*Celebration of Champions Dinner*” on May 16 at the Glendale Civic Center. The event will honor Glendale’s own high school state athletic champions. The dinner will also feature a guest speaker.

Ashley Furniture is the presenting sponsor of the Celebration of Champions Dinner. Sponsorship and advertising opportunities are available. Tickets are \$75.

For more information on GLENDAL FIRST and the upcoming dinner, call Shawn Pensinger at 623-209-2727.

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